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MCGWG-M-30

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COMIREX MAPPING, CHARTING AND GEODESY WORKING GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting Held in Room 2D921
Pentagon
1230-1430, 2 April 1968

PRESIDING

Colonel Lloyd L. Rall
Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT

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CONSULTANTS PRESENT

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Purpose of Meeting

1. The purpose of the meeting was to take up items on the agenda furnished members dated 21 March 1968 (Enclosure 1). The first item on the agenda was a special briefing by USAF. Minutes concerning this briefing are recorded separately. Before proceeding to the next item, [redacted] mentioned that [redacted] desired that a requirement paper be prepared for COMIREX to cover the world-wide requirements for the frame camera of the KH-4 J-3 system.

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25X1B [redacted] Approach for Improved Geodetic Positioning from KH-4 Photography

2. A paper on the above subject was forwarded members on 28 March. The purpose of the paper was to establish the requirement for obtaining J-3 frame photography in a [redacted] mode to be used for geodetic positioning of targets, and to establish geodetic control in support of mapping efforts.

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25X1A a. [redacted] suggested that the subject be treated in three parts: First, the general requirement statement; secondly, detailed plans for the next J-3 mission the latter part of April; and thirdly, plans for a June-July J-3 mission.

25X1B b. The [redacted] approach has been considered for some time in connection with the J-3 as a tool for geodetic positioning. It was never considered to have the potential for meeting the over-all requirement unless certain other things are done. Air Force submitted a proposal last fall, but poor lighting conditions in the winter for the northern hemisphere made it impractical to consider collection earlier. In discussion of the paper, NRO and CIA representatives pointed out as they had on previous occasion, that the low inclination indicated as optimum for the [redacted] would severely limit the effectiveness of the mission for covering intelligence objectives. This fact had previously been recognized by DIA, and it was pointed out that we were not asking for a change in inclination on this mission (April). However, the 70° inclination is best from the MC&G point of view because it permits much better ties to geodetic control outside the Sino-Soviet area and provides a good distribution of common tie points between ascending and descending passes within the Sino-Soviet area. [redacted] indicated that continuous coverage was desirable between targets and control areas, and that the words "but is not an absolute requirement" at the end of the second sentence should be deleted. This was agreed to by all concerned. While the inclination was recognized as a difficult problem, the group accepted the paper as a requirement statement and as the broad basis for undertaking mission-to-mission planning for the [redacted] approach.

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25X1A c. [redacted] mentioned that planning for the next mission was based on the 82° inclination estimated by NRO as the one that they would use. Mr. [redacted] presented graphics prepared by Army and Air Force which indicated the [redacted] coverage requirements by priorities. Those advanced by Army covered regions where their mapping was planned in the next few years and where geodetic strengthening was needed. Those prepared by Air Force were primarily to tie down more accurately five missile targets where no good coverage is available. It was explained that the desired use of free-wheeling frame coverage was approximately 50% for cartographic purposes and 50% for

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geodetic positioning purposes, and that the geodetic positioning should be divided about equally between the Air Force and Army requirements which would amount to a total of about 4 or 5 passes each. It was concluded that a single overlay would be prepared and furnished 25X1A [redacted] indicating these priorities for the next mission.

d. Planning for the June-July mission justifies careful consideration because it is the most favorable time for light in the northern hemisphere. However, such planning is greatly dependent on whatever systems NRO is proposing toward fulfilling the 450 feet horizontal and 300 feet vertical positioning requirement. It was brought out that even though this time period was the most favorable for obtaining photography at the lower inclination, it might be difficult to justify. Although some improvement would result, other system improvements such as the Doppler transponder or possibly positioning of Soviet radars would be required for the [redacted] to meet the 25X1B requirement. This created somewhat of a dilemma, in that NRO could not at this time set forth solutions to the requirement (see next item - paragraph 3). After considerable discussion, it was resolved that a sub-Working Group would be appointed to study all facets of the problem to plan as soundly as possible for the June-July mission, and that it was essential that NRO participate with this sub-group. All agreed to this course of action. Members were asked to designate a sub-Working Group representative [redacted] of DIA has 25X1A been designated Chairman).

Progress Toward Meeting World-Wide Positioning Requirements

25X1A 3. [redacted] of NRO indicated that the NRO staff was consolidating proposals for meeting the world-wide positioning requirements and was scheduling their submission to the Director, NRO, immediately after the 15th of April. He indicated that 3 approaches were advanced for meeting this requirement by 1970, but he could not go further in explanation without final review by NRO. The Chairman and others indicated there was a priority need for the NRO to propose solutions to the geodetic requirement.

Updated Requirements Statement on World-Wide Positioning for Long-Range Missiles

25X1A 4. DIA representatives distributed a prepared statement in view of changes concerning re-entry vehicles and readiness dates. There was no time for discussion. The Chairman announced that this item would be resumed, together with other incompleted items, at the next meeting.

[redacted]

CHAIRMAN
COMIREX MC&G Working Group

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1 Enclosure a/s

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MEMORANDUM FOR COMIREX MAPPING, CHARTING AND GEODESY WORKING GROUP

SUBJECT: Agenda for MCGWG Meeting 2 April 1968

1. A meeting of the COMIREX MCGWG will be held at 1230 hours 2 April 1968 in Room 2D921 Pentagon, to cover the following agenda items:

a. A special briefing by USAF for information purposes, followed by discussion of characteristics of MC&G requirements and support.

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b. [redacted] Approach for Improving Geodetic Positioning - a proposal by DoD for operation of the DISIC of the KH-4 system. Descriptive paper will be circulated in advance to MCGWG members by DIA.

c. Updated Requirement Statement on World-wide Positioning for Long-range Missiles - an updated prepared statement by DIA in view of changes concerning re-entry vehicles and reaffirmation of readiness states.

d. Progress Toward Meeting World-wide Positioning Requirements - statement by NRO.

e. KH-4 Recoverage Requirements Outside Sino-Soviet Area - presented by DIA for limited areas keyed to firm stereo production programs.

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f. [redacted] Requirements for Mapping/Charting Coverage - requirement statement presented by DIA related to the past 3 years' experience in collecting KH-4 data over the tropical belt, and a statement by NRO as to the state-of-the-art for [redacted] satellite systems.

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